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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

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C-C-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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[REDACTED] report on the organization of
Czechoslovak sport [REDACTED] on 10 outstanding Czech
athlètes. [REDACTED]

ARMY review completed.

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THE CZECHOSLOVAK VOLUNTARY SPORTS ORGANIZATION

OUTSTANDING ATHLETES

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A. THE CZECHOSLOVAK VOLUNTARY SPORTS ORGANIZATION

1. State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports

In 1948, when the Communist regime took over the government in Czechoslovakia, all sports clubs and their activities were made subordinate to the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports (SVTVS - Statni Vybor Pro Telo-
vychovu a Sport). The national headquarters of SVTVS was located in a former YMCA building, located on Na Porici street in the vicinity of Republic Square (Namesti Republiky) and the White Swan (Bila Labut) department store, PRAGUE/Novo Mesto. (See Annex A for pinpoint location.) The chairman of SVTVS from its establishment until about 1953 was SVOBODA, (fnu), a Czechoslovak army general officer (exact grade unknown).

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2. Sports Organization Representatives

It was common knowledge that there was a sports organization representative (sportovni referent) included among the members of every civic administrative council. Thus, there was a sports representative on each regional national council (KNV-Krajsky Narodni Vybor), of which there were 19 in Czechoslovakia; on each district national council (ONV-Okresni Narodni Vybor), each region being divided into a number of districts, depending on the density of the population in each district; and on each local national committee (MNV-Mistni Narodni Vybor) of a city, town, or village.

Whenever a sports organization of a certain locality desired to compete with another sports organization, permission for such event first had to be secured from their local MNV sports representative. If the sports event was to take place outside the respective district or region, it had to be approved by the sports representative of either the region or district concerned.

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3. Institute for Physical Culture and Sports

Instructors for various sports were trained at the Institute for Physical Culture and Sports (ITVS-Institut Telovychovy a Sportu) in PRAGUE/ Mala Strana. This institute was commonly referred to as "Tyrs Institute" ("Tyrsuv Ustav"). Tyrs was the founder of the former "Sokol", a national Czechoslovak sports organization prior to 1948. Graduates of this institute became professors of athletics at schools of higher education. The duration of the course was four years.

This institute also included a two-year course, known as the State Sports Instructors' School (Statni Trenerska Skola). Graduates of this course became State sports instructors (Statni Trener) and were assigned to outstanding Voluntary Sports Organizations.³

4. Naming System for Voluntary Sports Organizations

In general, every larger national enterprise firm, factory, research institute, foundry, etc, had its organized sports organization, with a sports representative official on the factory council. Members of the organization were drawn from the employees. These clubs were organized according to industrial specialties, under the following general sports club titles:

- BANIK - Members consisted of workers employed in mines and foundries.
- TATRAN - Members consisted of workers employed in construction and building industry.
- LOKOMOTIVA - Members consisted of workers employed by the Czechoslovak Railroads (CSD-Ceskoslovenske Statni Drah) and the Czechoslovak Automobile Transportation (CSAD-Ceskoslovenska Automobilova Doprava).
- JISKRA - Members consisted of workers employed in textile and shoemaking industry.
- SLOVAN - Members consisted of white collar workers and workers employed in press and printing industries.
- DYNAMO - Members consisted of workers employed in the post, telephone, and telegraph services.
- SLAVOJ - Members consisted of skilled trade workers, such as barbers, butchers, bakers, waiters, carpenters, etc.
- SOKOL - Members consisted of workers on the collective farms (JZD-Jednotne Zemedelske Druzstvo), State farms (SS-Statni Statky), and State tractor stations (STZ-Statni Traktorova Stanice).
- SPARTAK - Members consisted of workers employed in heavy industry.
- SLAVIE - Members consisted of teachers and students in the Czechoslovak educational system.

Thus, for example, a soccer team from the John SVERMA Plant located in BRNO, would be known as SPARTAK/BRNO/ZJS (ZJS-Zavody Jan Svermy), or a team from the Moravian Electrotechnical Plant also located in BRNO would be known as SPARTAK/BRNO/MEZ (MEZ-Moravske Elektrotechnicke Zavody).

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Designations of military sports organizations were as follows:

RUDA HVEZDA - Members consisted of members of Interior Guard (VS-Vnitřní Stráž), Border Guards (PS-Pohraniční Stráž), National Security Corps (SNB-Sbor Národní Bezpečnosti), and State Security (StB-Státní Bezpečnost) organizations.

DUKLA - Members consisted of members of the armed forces. Prior to spring of 1956, the armed forces sports clubs went under the name of UDA, a title which was an abbreviation of the Central Army (Recreation) House of Prague (UDA-Ustřední Dům Armády). All outstanding athletes of the Czechoslovak armed forces were members of this organization.

Prior to the spring of 1956 only members of the armed forces, their dependents, and employees of such forces could be members of UDA. After 1956 any civilian who so desired could join the armed forces sports organization about 10 percent of DUKLA athletes were civilians. It was common knowledge that DUKLA had more funds at its disposal than any other sports club, and this made membership there more desirable.

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5. Organization of Individual Sports Clubs

Each voluntary sports organization was headed by an administrative committee which included the following non-paid officials: chairman, secretary, recorder, and treasurer. Each sports club also had a training instructor. Such instructors were of three categories: (1) State sports instructors (Státní trenér), (2) professional instructors (trenér s povolení), and (3) amateur instructors (trenér amatér).

The state sports instructor was assigned to outstanding sports clubs by the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, and his salary was paid by the sports club to which he was assigned.

The professional instructor (trenér s povolení) was hired by and received his salary from the sports club by which he was employed as a full-time instructor.

The amateur instructor (trenér amatér) was a non-salaried volunteer worker in the individual sports organization.

only the State sports instructors who were employed at headquarters sports training sections of the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports in PRAGUE, received their salary from SVTVS.

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6. Financing of Voluntary Sports Organizations

The Voluntary Sports Organizations were financed by allocations from an unknown Ministry, the Central Council of Trade Unions (ÚRO-Ustřední Rada Odborů), and the Revolutionary (Labor) Organization (ROH-Revoluční Odborové Hnutí), in addition to membership fees and income derived from sale of tickets for various competitions.

In the spring of 1956 the contribution from the unidentified Ministry was greatly reduced (percentage unknown) and apparently to make up this loss, the membership fees in all voluntary sports clubs was increased. Formerly the membership fee had been 10 crowns per year; in the spring of 1956 it was raised to 7 crowns per month.⁴

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7. Political Indoctrination in Voluntary Sports Organizations

There was no special program set up for the political indoctrination of Voluntary Sports Organization members. [redacted] the political reliability of athletes was closely observed. [redacted]

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[redacted] the following team was involved: Bohuslav MCDRY, (fnu) JIRKA, (fnu) KONOPASEK, (fnu) ROZINAR, Gustav RUBNIK, and (fnu) SPANINGER.

The individuals of this hockey team, after completion of their prison terms, were never again permitted to participate in sports outside Soviet satellite countries.

8. Sports Schools

Whenever it was observed that a certain locality had an interest in a certain sport, a "sports school" was organized there. The requests for a "sports school" were generally made to the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports by the local or district sports representative, who was a member of the national council of the locality concerned. After approval of such a request a "sports school" was organized and attached to one of the local Voluntary Sports Organizations. In some instances, a state sports instructor (statni trener) was attached to a "sports school" from the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports or a sports instructor from the Voluntary Sports Organization to which the school was attached, was appointed. Training at "sports schools" was conducted about twice a week for several hours, after the normal school sessions. Locally available school gymnasiums, sports fields, and stadiums were utilized.

Every Voluntary Sports Organization was anxious to have such a "sports school" for boys and girls attached to their organization, since it furnished an opportunity to observe the performance of potential athletes and acquire new members. [redacted] the army Voluntary Sports Organization DUKLA, had a large number of "sports schools" under their patronage. Most of the civilian Voluntary Sports Organizations were reluctant to have sports matches and games with DUKLA clubs since, generally speaking, DUKLA had the best athletes.

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Each "sports school" was divided into four categories, according to the age bracket of the trainees, as follows:

1. Beginners (Zacatecnici) Boys and girls aged 10 could join this group, and they remained in this category until they acquired a good knowledge of and a certain degree of efficiency in the sport in which they were trained.
2. Students (Zactvo) Boys and girls remained in this category until they reached their 14th year.
3. Junior Candidates (Mladi Dorost) Boys and girls between the ages 14 and 16 were in this category.

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4. Senior Candidates (Stary Dorost)

Boys and girls in the 16 to 19 year old age bracket were in this category. Upon reaching their 19th year, individuals were permitted to join the Voluntary Sports Organization of their choice. Generally they either joined or were asked to join the organizations which conducted the "sports training" schools, since it apparently was the purpose of such "sports training" schools to train their future members or have a choice of their selection.

9. Physical Examinations for Members of the Voluntary Sports Organizations

A yearly physical examination was compulsory for all members, but no doctors were assigned to individual Voluntary Sports Organizations. The physical examinations were conducted at designated civilian hospitals (Czechoslovakia had a nationalized medical care system), and the results were recorded in the membership identification booklets of the examinees.

The yearly physical examination [redacted] was simply a normal, routine general check-up. Eyes, ears, throat, teeth, nose, blood pressure, and pulse were checked; chest x-rays were taken; the weight and height were recorded; a urinalysis test was made; and a venereal disease check was also included.

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10. Transfers among Sports Clubs

Until about 1951, individuals with specific professions had to belong to the sports organization for their particular profession. Thus a mail carrier had to be a member of the "Dynamo" sports club; a butcher of the "Slavoj" sports club, etc. However, since 1951 individuals were allowed to join sports clubs of their own choosing. This had to be done with the permission of the local national council's sports representative's approval, and such transfers could be effected only twice a year, in the spring or fall of each year.

The main reason for transfers from one club to another was that certain clubs were more active and traveled more to various cities to engage in games, making membership in such clubs more desirable, since the expense of travel, subsistence, and hotel accommodations were defrayed by the sports club.

11. Sports Awards

a. "Prepared for Work and Defense of the Homeland" Badge

One of the special interests of all Voluntary sports organizations was to assist all of its members to attain the "Prepared for Work and Defense of the Homeland" (PPOV-Pripraven k Praci a Obrane Vlasti) badge. To be awarded the PPOV badge, an individual had to complete certain sports activities, such as a forced march in a prescribed period of time of an unknown number of kilometers, while carrying a prescribed weight; make a high jump; run an obstacle course; participate in track and gymnastic activities, etc. [redacted]

[redacted] A basic knowledge of Communism and first aid were also included in the tests and requirements. Tests for PPOV did not have to be completed at one time, but could be completed in parts, as desired. They were administered under the supervision of a designated Voluntary sports organization trainer, who entered the results in a records booklet issued to every participant. Retakes were permissible on requirements which individuals failed.

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There were two degrees of PPOV, the First and Second Degrees. The PPOV of the Second Degree differed from the PPOV of the First Degree in that the requirements for the attainment of the former were much higher than the requirements for the attainment of the latter. Only holders of the PPOV Second Degree badge were permitted to participate in national and international sports activities, while holders of the PPOV First Degree badge were eligible to participate in regional and district sports meets and games.

b. National Sports Efficiency Classifications and Awards

Outstanding sportsmen were classified into five categories as follows:

1. Meritorious Master of Sports (Zaslouzily Mistr Sportu)
2. Master of Sports (Mistr Sportu)

Awards of these two classifications were given by the Czechoslovak government only on special occasions, such as on state holidays and at ceremonies organized for such specific purpose.

3. Achievement of First Class (Prvni Vykonostni Trida). This classification was awarded to outstanding athletes only by the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports.

4. Achievement of Second Class (Druha Vykonostni Trida).

5. Achievement of Third Class (Treti Vykonostni Trida). These two classifications were awarded to outstanding athletes by their Regional Committee for Physical Culture and Sports. Source did not know details of the prerequisites and requirements for attainment of various national Sports Efficiency Classification awards. He was certain only that the attainment of the PPOV badge of either the First or Second degree was a prerequisite for any of the classification awards. The Meritorious Master of Sports and the Master of Sports classification awards were awarded only to athletes who excelled in international sports events. The other types of awards were presented to outstanding performers in national sports events.

All of these classifications in sportsmanship were designated by insignia, which were presented to the individuals concerned. The Meritorious Master of Sports and the Master of Sports awards were permanent type.

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The Achievement of First, Second and Third Class awards were valid only for one year.

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Any of these decorations, if awarded to army personnel, could be worn on their army uniforms.

There was another award known as the "Meritorious Worker in Physical Culture and Sports" (Zaslouzily Pracovnik v Telovychove a Sportu). This was an honorary type award, given to voluntary sports trainers with various Voluntary Sports Organizations and was awarded only by the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports.

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c. List of Meritorious Masters of Sports and Masters of Sports

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There were about 50 athletes in Czechoslovakia who held the Meritorious Master of Sports and Master of Sports classifications.

some of these as follows:

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(1) Meritorious Master of Sports:

JUNGWIRT, Stanislav (Track)(Captain, Army)
 KOMADE, (fnu) (Swimmer)(Civilian)
 SKOBLA, (fnu) (Shot-put)(Civilian)
 SVOZIL, (fnu) (Swimmer) (Civilian)
 STARY, (fnu) (Swimmer) (Civilian)
 TORMA, Julius (Boxer)(Captain, Army)
 VESELY, (fnu) (Cyclist) (Civilian)
 ZABRODSKY, Vladimir (Hockey) (Civilian)

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(2) Master of Sports:

BACIK, Ladislav (Swimmer)(Civilian)
 KOPRIVA, Aladar (Swimmer)(Civilian)
 MERTA, (fnu) (Discus) (Civilian)
 KCMADEL, Ludevit (Swimmer) (Civilian)

12. Preparatory Training of National Sport Teams

Potential members of a National Sport Team (Narodni Muzstvo), designated to compete in foreign countries for championship in one certain sport, such as hockey, soccer, etc, were selected by the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports. At every major sport event within Czechoslovakia, there was a sports representative from either the local or district national committee who observed the performance of individual athletes. Reports of such findings were forwarded to the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, where potential candidates for a National Sport Team were selected (undoubtedly, after a thorough political reliability investigation of each individual).

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About a month prior to international championship meets in a foreign country, special preparatory training for potential candidates (selected by the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports) was conducted. This preparatory training was referred to as a "gathering of athletes" ("soustredeni sportovcu"). Generally a large group of athletes excelling in one particular sport for which championship was aspired, were gathered from voluntary sports organizations throughout the country at a designated sports training center. The sports training center most frequently used for this purpose was located in a former Training Center for Apprentices of a well-known BATA shoe manufacturing firm (after the nationalization of all private property) located in SEZIMOVO USTI (N49-23, E14-42)(UTM VQ-7770). The preparatory training for light athletics was generally conducted in HOUSTKA (N50-11, E14-42); preparatory training for soccer and bicycle races was carried out in KLANOVICE (N50-06, E14-40)(UTM VR-7750); and preparatory training for water sports was held in PIESTANY (N50-31, E14-04)(UTM VR-3449).

During these training periods, participants received their normal wages from factories or their regular places of employment and thereby did not lose their regular income. participants in international championship meets also received some type of bonus.

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13. Sports Periodicals

Two sports periodicals were published in Czechoslovakia by the State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports, the Czechoslovak Sports (Ceskoslovensky Sport) and Stadium (Stadion).

was able to re-

Czechoslovak Sports was printed in newspaper form and contained three sheets. It was published daily, except on Mondays, and sold for .40 crown. Stadium magazine was about 30 x 20 cm in size, contained four sheets, and was richly illustrated. It sold for one crown.

OUTSTANDING ATHLETES

25X1

NAME: BACIK, Ladislav

RANK OR

ARM: N/A

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NAME: BACILEK, (fnu)

RANK OR

ARM: N/A

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NAME: JUNGWIT, Stanislav

RANK OR

ARM: Unknown (Army)

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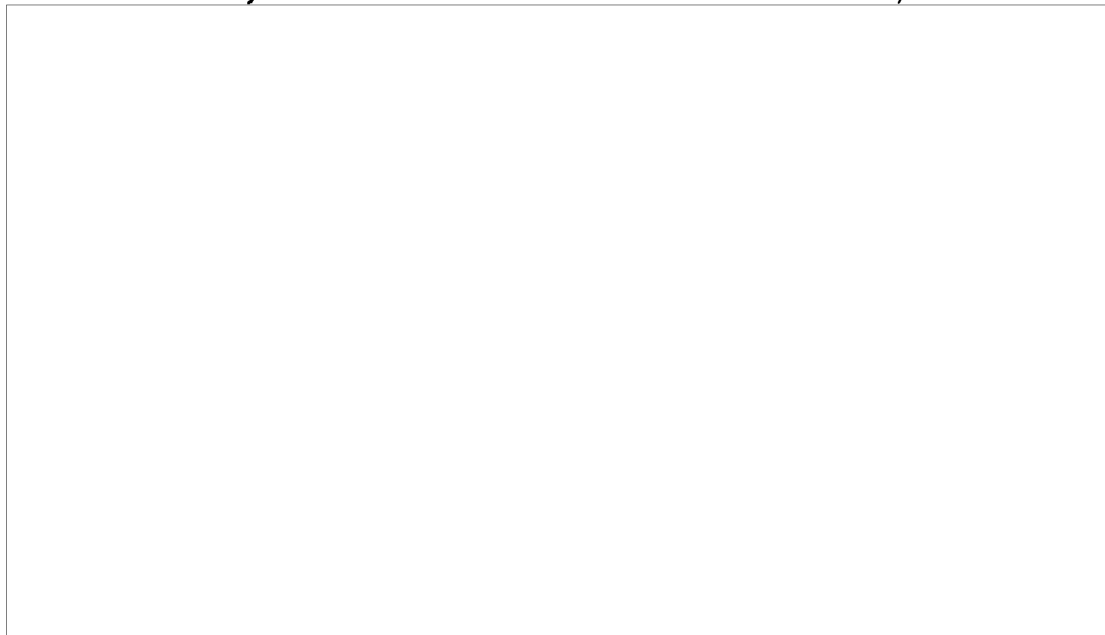


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NAME: KOMADEL, Ludevit

RANK OR

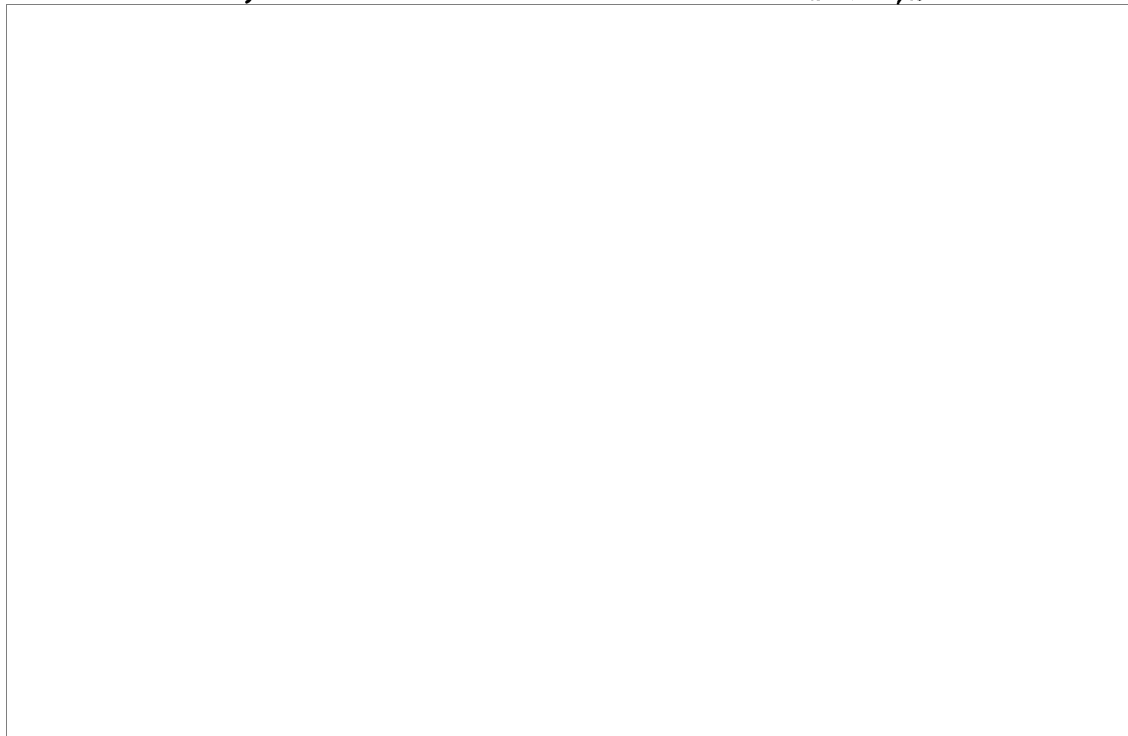
ARM: N/A



NAME: KOPRIVA, Aladar

RANK OR

ARM: N/A



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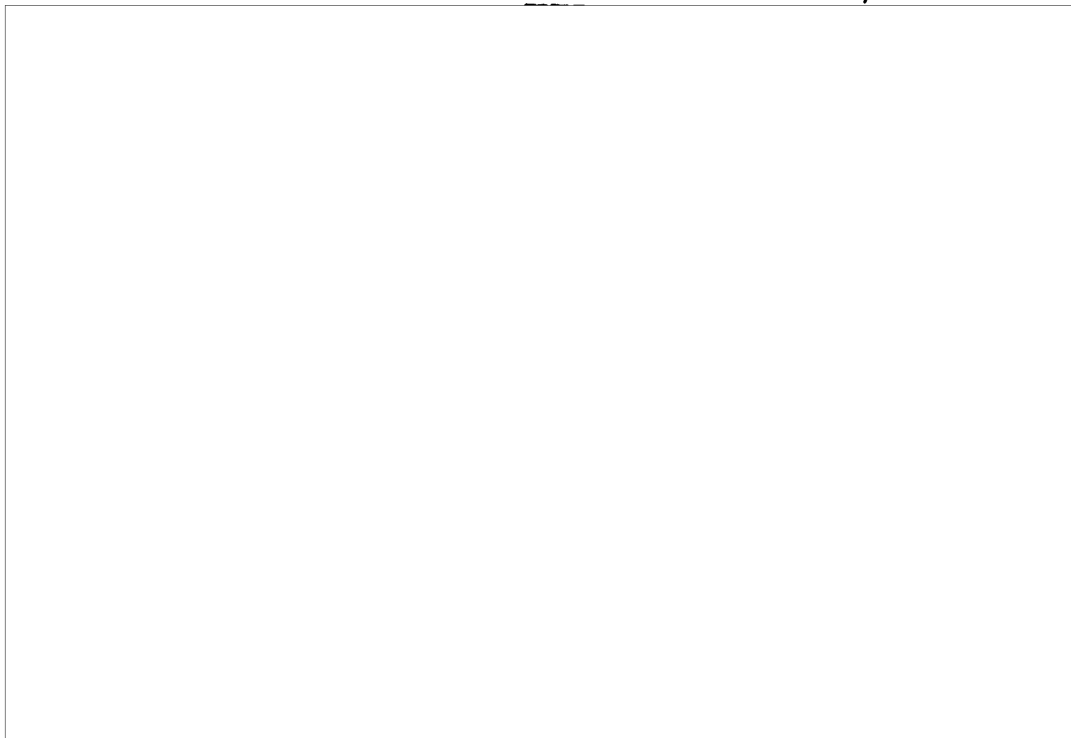


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NAME: MERTA, (fnu)

RANK OR

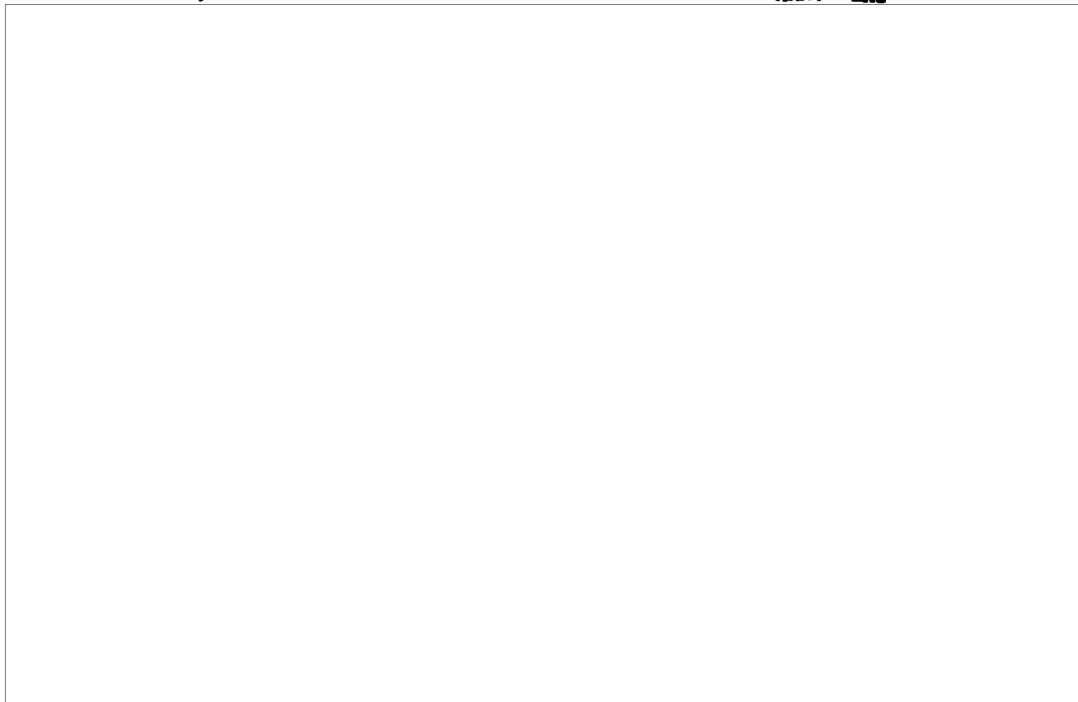
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NAME: SKOELA, (fnu)

RANK OR

ARM: Inf



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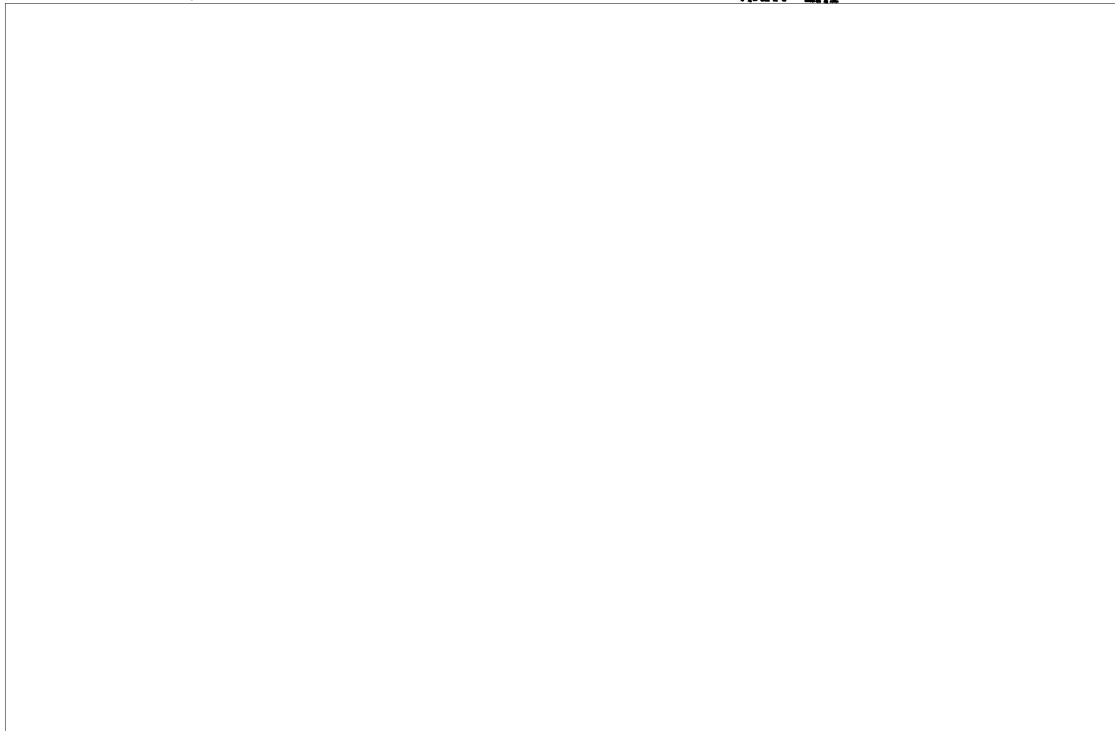


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NAME: TORMA, Julius

RANK OR

ARM: Inf



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NAME: VESELY, Jan

RANK OR

ARM: N/A



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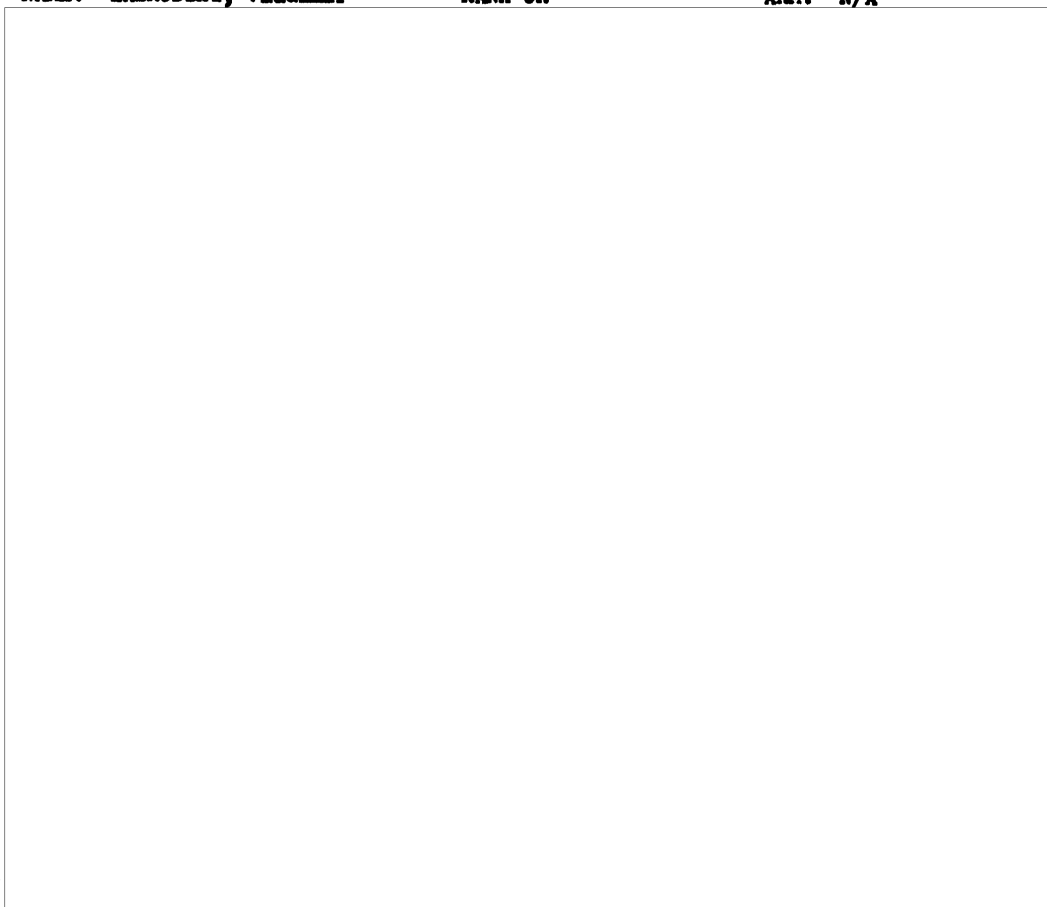


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NAME: ZABRODSKY, Vladimir

RANK OR

ARM: N/A



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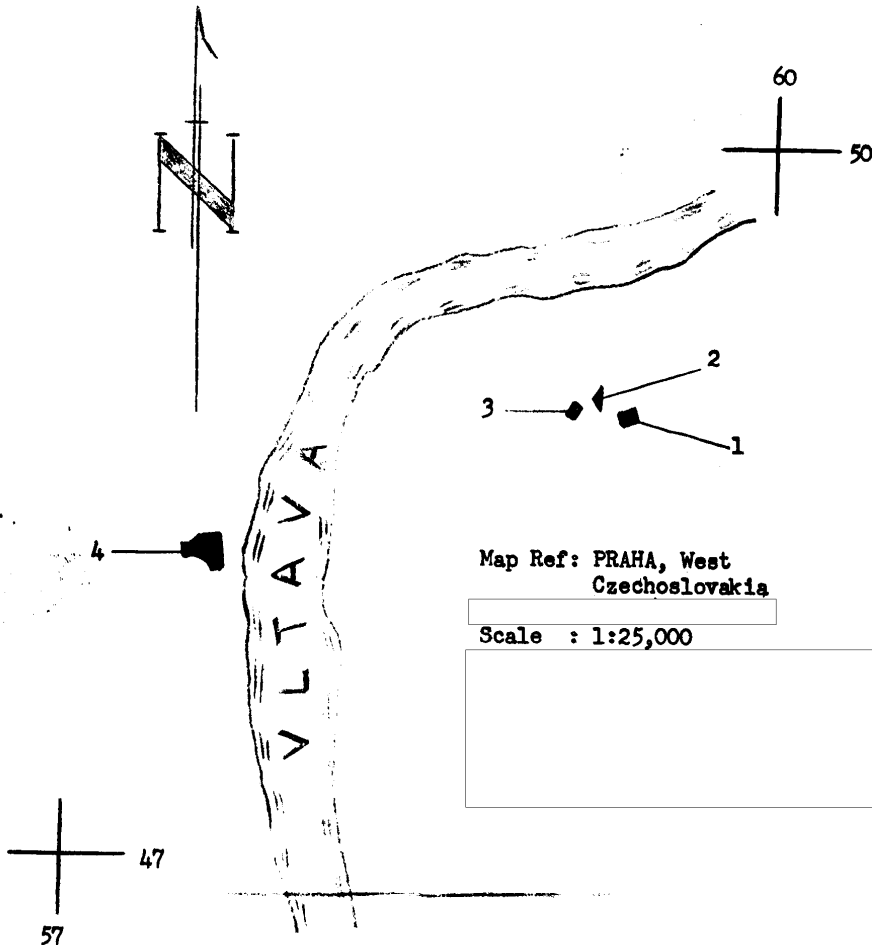
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Annex A

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Location of the State Committee for Physical Culture and SportsHeadquarters and the Institute for Physical Culture and Sports, in PRAGUEMap Ref: PRAHA, West
Czechoslovakia

Scale : 1:25,000

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Legend:

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1. The State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports Headquarters, located on Na Porici street. It was an L-shaped, four-story, dark grey stucco building approximately 50 x 30 m, formerly a YMCA building.

The pool was underground, and its glass roof was even with the ground surface. The pool was about 28 x 8 m in size and contained a four lane swimming track. Its maximum depth was about three meters. Besides numerous offices (details unknown) this building also had a large gymnasium on the first floor and a small one on the second floor.

2. Prague Garrison Headquarters: Indicated only as an orientation point.

3. The Czechoslovak Airlines Terminal: Indicated only as an orientation point.

4. The Institute for Physical Culture and Sports:

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the institute included several buildings of various sizes

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Comments:

1. The title of this State Committee for Physical Culture and Sports was somewhat changed in the spring of 1956.

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3. DUKLA (N49-25, E21-42) is a name of a mountain pass located in the north-eastern part of Slovakia, where fierce battles took place during WWI and II.

4. The official rate of exchange is believed to be seven crowns for one US dollar.

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